

## Teacher Class Plan

### Hebrews: Lesson #65: A Promise Remains of Entering His Rest For Wednesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>

Read Heb. 3:1 - 4:13 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

**Memory Verse:** Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”

We are in our second lesson from the book of Hebrews. Let’s review the Hebrews poster and learn about some things that book is going to tell us about. *Review the Hebrews poster.*

#### Jesus is Our High Priest

- In our last lesson in told us how Jesus came to live like a human being so that He could be our High Priest. We are told about that a lot in Hebrews. Now in this lesson we are told that again. God sent Jesus to be our High Priest.

#### Jesus is Greater Than Moses

- The letter to the Hebrews is about the greatness of Jesus Christ and how He is better and greater than all the other important people we read about in the Bible. Remember how in our last lesson it showed us that Jesus was more important than angels. *Show them the poster that talks about this and add Moses to the list.*
- This part of Hebrews tells us about how Jesus is more important than Moses. Moses was one of the greatest men that ever lived. He is very important in the Old Testament. The story of his life and how he served God is talked about a lot. God gave the Old Testament law through him. But...
- Hebrews says that Jesus is greater than Moses. Moses and Jesus were both faithful to God in the work God gave them to do.
- The difference between them is this: Moses was a faithful **servant** in God’s house. But Jesus was a **Son** over God’s house. If your father or mother hires someone to come mow your yard or paint your house, they are there kind of like a servant to work. But you are their child, their son or daughter. You are more important to them than someone who just works for them. Jesus is God’s Son, Moses was just another servant of God like all of us should be.
- Also, Jesus was over God’s house, while Moses was just in God’s house. “Over” means to be in charge of it, ruling over it like a king.

#### We are God’s House

- Sometimes when the Bible tells us about God’s people it talks about them like they are God’s family or God’s household. So you might say that Jesus is over all of God’s family.
- Jesus is over God’s house. We can be part of God’s house. When you believe that Jesus is God’s Son and are baptized, you enter God’s house, God’s family.

- But to stay part of God’s house we have to stay faithfully serving Him and not give up. Do you know what the word “if” means? When your parents say “We will take you to the movie if you clean your room”, “if” means you have to clean your room to get to go. Don’t clean the room and you won’t get to go. The Bible uses the word “if” a lot. Heb. 3:6 says, “whose house we are **if** we hold fast...” We can’t keep being part of God’s house if we don’t stay faithful to Jesus.

### **An Old Testament Story for Us to Learn**

- *This part of Hebrews reviews the story of the children of Israel and why they did not get to go to their promised land. You can look in the Old Testament file and find some activities and teaching that would help you teach this.*
- The writer of Hebrews reminds us about the Old Testament when God used Moses to deliver the children of Israel from being slaves in Egypt. When they left Egypt, God parted the Red Sea and they went into the wilderness. God gave them His Law at Mt. Sinai. He fed them with manna and took care of them.
- But we also remember how they rebelled against God. When God sent the 12 spies to look at the promised land, we remember how 10 of the spies said that they could not take the land. Caleb and Joshua said that God would give them the land, but the Israelites didn’t believe them. They started talking about going back to Egypt. That generation “hardened their hearts” to God. When people “harden their hearts” it is like saying that they make their hearts hard like a rock. They are not letting their hearts believe God and love Him. They don’t listen to Him.
- Because of their lack of faith in God, that generation was not allowed to go into the promised land. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation died.
- Christians have to learn an important lesson from this: We are God’s people who have been led by Jesus Christ out of bondage to the devil and sin. Jesus is leading us to the promised land of heaven. He has given us God’s Law. He takes care of us.
- We must never let our hearts get hard. We must never let an evil, unbelieving heart come into us and cause us to leave God. Our hearts get hard when we start wanting to do sinful things. The devil tries to get us to give up and don’t serve God anymore.
- If we do get hard-hearted and leave God, then we won’t get to go to the promised land of heaven. The idea that we could miss heaven should really bother us and make us try all that much harder to get there.
- We are told that every day we need to encourage everyone to keep serving God, keep going to church, don’t give up, don’t give in to sin. This is an important reason why we should be going to church. At church people care about us all going to heaven. People there can help encourage us to be faithful.

### **The Power of God’s Word**

- The writer of Hebrews has just told us a Bible story about the children of Israel and how they missed their promised land. That is a powerful story that should really make us think about our own lives.
- Now the writer of Hebrews tells us that this is one good reason to study God’s Word. God’s Word is alive and if we study it, it will work great things in our heart.

- Doctors have different machines that can look at the inside of our bodies. An X-ray machine can look at your bones. Other machines can look at our organs like our heart, our kidneys, our brain. But the Word can look deep inside of us, down to our soul. It can show us that how we are living or even what we are thinking about, and whether it is good or bad.
- God's Word can do that because the God who gave us that word knows all about us. He knows what we are really like. He knows what needs to change about us and through His Word God can show us how to change our lives.
- This is what our **memory verse** is about: Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..." *Hold up the large memory verse card and review it, then see if the kids can say it.*

**Bible Quiz:** Please review the quiz questions with the class. If you have time, you can review Sunday's quiz as well.

### **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

#### **The Son Over God's House**

3:1 And so, holy brethren, who share together in the heavenly call, fix your mind on Jesus, the One sent forth who is High Priest – which we have confessed to be true.

2 Jesus was faithful to the One who made Him High Priest, just as Moses was faithful to the work he was given in all of God's house.

3 But Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses, in the same way that the man who built a house is more important than the house he built.

4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the one who built everything.

5 It is certainly true that Moses was a faithful servant in all of God's house. (What he testified to was able to be used by those who would speak later on.)

6 But Christ was a Son over God's house. We are that house if we firmly stay on the course of speaking the truth in a plain and courageous way, even if it means persecution. We are that house if we continue taking great pride in our hope. We are that house if we do all this persistently and without wavering all the way to the end.

#### **God Said They Could Not Enter His Rest**

7-8 Now because we must hold fast to the very end, the Holy Spirit has spoken these words to us through the Old Testament scripture, "Today if you will hear God's voice, do not harden your hearts like you did the time you rebelled against me, when you challenged me and put me to the test in the wilderness.

9 There in that wilderness your ancestors kept putting me to the test, examining me as if I needed to prove myself over and over again. So for the next forty years I showed them My work.

10 Because of their attitude, I was offended and disgusted with that generation, and said, "They always wander away from me in their hearts and they don't know my ways."

11 So in My anger I swore, "They shall not enter My rest."

### **Learn From That Story**

12 Brethren, take a careful look at what the Holy Spirit is telling us in this Scripture. Constantly watch so that your heart will never become evil and unbelieving and cause you to wander away from the living God.

13 But just as our Scripture quote emphasized “Today”, let’s encourage and admonish each other while we can still call it “Today” so that none of you will ever be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

14 For we have become sharers in Christ if we continue to stand firmly on the foundation we’ve been on since the beginning and stay there until the end.

15-16 Now when that Scripture said, “Today if you will hear God’s voice, do not harden your hearts like you did the time you rebelled against me”, who were these people who heard and rebelled against God? Wasn’t it all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

17 But who was God offended and disgusted with for those forty years? Wasn’t it those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did God swear, “They shall not enter My rest”, but the ones who stubbornly refused to believe.

19 So we see that they could not enter because they had no faith.

### **A Rest Remains For the People of God**

4:1 Since a promise still remains of our entering His rest, we should be terrified at the idea that of any of us might not reach it.

2 For good news was preached to us, just like it was preached to them, but the Word preached did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith in those that heard it.

3 For it is those who have believed who get to enter into rest.

In the Scripture we quoted earlier David tells us how God said, “So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest.” Now God entered into His rest when all of His works were finished at creation back when the world was begun.

4-5 And where was it that it says about the seventh day, “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”? And we also know that the Psalm said, “They shall not enter My rest.”

6 So the passage from Psalms implies that some had not yet entered God’s rest, and we know that the people who had the good news preached to them never did get to enter God’s rest because of their lack of faith.

7 Now the Psalmist (quoting him again) said, “Today”. He spoke to his time many years after the children of Israel entered the promised land. Yet he still said, “Today, if YOU will hear His voice, do not harden YOUR hearts.”

8 Now Joshua took them into the promised land, and if that had been the “rest”, then the Psalmist wouldn’t have talked about another time.

9 That implies that the promised land was not the final rest, but that there is still a rest remaining for the people of God.

10 For if someone had truly entered into God’s rest, they would be able to rest from their works, just like God did His.

11 So carefully and diligently make every effort to enter that rest so that no one will fall in the same way the Israelites fell in a rebellious lack of faith.

### **The Power of God's Word**

12 For God's Word is living and will work effectively, being sharper than any two-edged sword -- A sword that can pierce to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. A sword that can judge what is going on in our thoughts and mind.

13 And no creature is hidden from God's sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him whom we must explain ourselves to.